

REMARKS

Claims 12 – 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 12, line 5, has been amended to recite “*a second circuit including a differentially connected transistor pair ...*”. The Applicants believe that the forgoing provides the clarification requested by the Examiner.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendment, it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 8, 9, 18 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s continuing attention and consideration.

New claim 21 corresponds with dependent claim 8, rewritten in independent form. New claim 21 contains all limitations of claim 8, base claim 1 and intervening claim 6.

Dependent claim 8 has been canceled and dependent claim 9 has been amended to depend from new independent claim 21.

New claim 22 corresponds with dependent claim 18, rewritten in independent form. New claim 22 contains all limitations of claim 18, base claim 12 and intervening claim 16.

Dependent claim 18 has been canceled and dependent claim 19 has been amended to depend from new independent claim 22.

Claims 1 – 7, 10, 11, 12 – 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kesler (U.S. 6,668,811).

The applicants submit that the apparatus disclosed in the '811 reference is fundamentally different than the present invention. The '811 device is essentially voltage based, whereby it monitors the amount of current flowing through the primary coil and shuts off the IGBT transistor whenever the current exceeds a threshold limit. In contrast, the present invention is time and temperature based, whereby the physical separation of the temperature responsive elements in the circuit die ensures self-contained operation based upon differential (not absolute) temperature.

Independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended to clarify and distinguish the present invention from the art of record. Claim 1 recites “ *Ignition control circuitry **including an integrated circuit die and comprising:** ... a resistor **thermally coupled to said die and configured to receive a load current** ... “ and “ ... a second circuit producing an output voltage proportional to a difference between an operating temperature of **the die adjacent said resistor** and a reference temperature **of the die at a location spaced from said resistor** ... ”. Claim 12 has been similarly amended. The '811 reference neither discloses nor suggests such structure or function.*

Claims 2 – 7, 10, 11, 13 – 17 and 20 depend, directly or indirectly from one of the independent claims and are each distinguishable from the '811 reference for the reasons set forth above.

Accordingly, in view of the amendments, it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

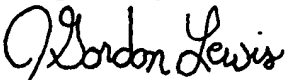
Conclusion

Applicants believe, in view of the amendments and remarks herein, that all grounds of rejection of the claims have been addressed and overcome, and that all claims are in condition for allowance.

If it would further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Gordon Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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